

DETAILED ACTION

This supplemental examiner's amendment includes a modification to claim 8 not present in the previous examiner's amendment.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/14/2009 has been entered.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lawrence Maxham on 8/31/2009 and again on 11/20/2009. The complete substance of the interview consisted of discussing the art of record to arrive at the agreed upon claim format detailed below. There was no exhibit or demonstration. In accordance with MPEP §713.04, since a complete record of the interview has been incorporated above in this examiner's

amendment, no separate Interview Summary form is required. Nor is applicant required to supply any Interview Record in response to this Office Action.

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 13, "a first arm" has been replaced with --a first arm of said overlapping arms--

Claim 1, lines 14-15, "a second arm" has been replaced with --a second arm of said overlapping arms--.

Claim 8, the entire text has been replaced with --The rail-to-post connection assembly according to claim 7, wherein the sliding causes lateral movement of the upper portion of the insert relative to the lower portion of the insert to grip the internal walls thereby.--

Claim 9, line 2, "threaded" has been deleted.

Claim 15, the entire text has been replaced with --The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the insert is a locking member configured to grip the internal walls.--

Claim 18, line 2, "power" has been replaced with --lower--.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor MacArthur whose telephone number is (571) 272-7085. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197.

November 24, 2009

/Victor MacArthur/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679